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GRAFTON, MA



FINANCE COMMITTEE 2022 MAR -8 | PM 3: 14

Town of Grafton
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Finance Committee public meeting of Wednesday, February 09, 2022 approved on Saturday, March 05, 2022.

**Finance Committee
Virtual Public Meeting/Public Hearing**

Remote meeting: Zoom Webinar

Webinar ID: 885 7851 7415

Passcode: 374232

30 Providence Road, Grafton, MA 01519

Wednesday, February 09, 2022

7:00 P.M.

Minutes

Public Meeting

Finance Committee Chair Mark W. Haddad called the public meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 7:00 P.M.

This is a Joint meeting with the Select Board and Finance Committee.

This is a Public Hearing of the Finance Committee to hear the Presentation of the Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets for FY23 by the Town Administrator.

Attendance will be taken by Roll Call.

All Voting will be taken by a Roll Call Vote.

Finance Committee

Present: Mark W. Haddad, Dan Cusher, Angelina Correia, Skip Currier, Andy Jefferson, Greg Marr, Heather McCue, Sue Robbins, Barry Smith.

Absent: No one is absent from the Finance Committee.

Select Board

Present: Peter Carlson, Colleen Roy, Mathew Often, Ray Mead

Absent: Doreen DeFazio

Others Present: Town Administrator Evan Brassard and Finance Director Mary Lauria.

Attendees on the Zoom Webinar: Amy Marr, Marilyn Cusher, Town of Grafton, Ed Prisby.

Public Hearing

Chair Mark W. Haddad entertained a Motion to open the public hearing of the Finance Committee.

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee open its public hearing.

Seconded: Greg Marr. All in favor. Motion carries.

Roll Call Vote: Aye Mark W. Haddad, Dan Cusher, Angelina Correia, Skip Currier, Andy Jefferson, Greg Marr, Heather McCue, Sue Robbins, Barry Smith.

Nay: None

The public hearing of the Finance Committee opened at 7:01 P.M.

**Public Hearing for the Presentation of the Proposed Operating and Capital FY23 Budgets by
Town Administrator, Evan Brassard.**

Discussion of the Proposed budgets.

- Town Administrator Evan Brassard thanked and acknowledged each for their hard work to establish the proposed budget for FY23: Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee, Mary Lauria, Dr. Cummings, William Blake, Cindy Ide, Anita Patel.
- **This budget increases fiscal transparency**
The budget will be on the Town's website
Organizational charts
Demographics
Financial Policies
Department Pages
Capital Budget.
- Proposed Budget Presentation for FY23
Maintains override capacity
Funds Schools
Increases Police Officer count
Continues with AA+ Bonding
- Updates:
OPEB
A placeholder of \$50,000.00 is in the FY23 proposed budget
BVT is showing an increase for Grafton in the amount of \$325,000.00 due to student increase in enrollment.

New Growth is currently at \$700,000.00

This number will likely increase by the time New Growth is certified.

Stabilization funds are at \$4.1 million

Free Cash is at \$2 million

Excess Levy Capacity for FY23 is \$1.1 million

Chapter 70

It is early in the budget process to receive State level funding amounts for FY23, however it is anticipated a Chapter 70 Fund increase.

- The proposed Operating budget for FY23 as presented is a 4.46% increase over the FY22 budget:
Full Time Fire Chief
23 Police Officers enrollment
Part time Plan Reviewer
School Department budget with a 5.42% increase
The Capital budget is not complete to date
Health Insurance carrying an 8% increase for this proposed budget
COLA at 2%
Select Board Assistant Admin will become a full time employee with Finance Committee and Affordable Housing Trust responsibilities
Assistant Town Administrator
Assistant Assessor
Technology costs: Library, Vadar, ClearGov
Plan Reviewer for Inspectors

Associate Planner
 Human Resources shared benefits with School
 Town Clerk- Election costs

Discussion points:

- BVT increase is due to student enrollment increase. The enrollment count is based on the previous year.
- Adding operational expenses
 - Police increase in officers
 - Adding to the count vs. replacing retirees
 - Growing staff needs more conversation
 - Climate concerns to increase police staff
 - Public Safety has not been addressed by Town Meeting
 - Crime report vs. Staff requirements
 - 1 police officer per thousand of the Town's population is difficult
- Highway Tree work
- Library staffing
- Vadar update
 - Motor Vehicles tax has been installed and uploaded
 - Chart of Account should be installed and uploaded by July 2022
- Plan Reviewer
 - Revenue vs. number of plans
- American Rescue Plan (ARPA)
 - Health Department Part time employee eligible
 - School Nursing Costs eligible
 - HVAC replacement project for Middle School eligible
- Grants received \$824,000.00.
- Variables
 - Health Insurance
 - New Growth
 - Trash Bag Fees
 - Salary Study
- Capital Budget
 - The Town Administrator is meeting with CIPC on February 10, 2022.
 - Currently the FY23 budget is \$1,474,052.00 and deeper conversations are needed.
 - Capital Stabilization fund is currently at \$1.2million.
 - Discussion led by Mathew Often relative to the underfunded capital program and the override plan dedicated to Capital maintenance plus the additional \$800,000.00 to create a sustainable budget over time.
- Hybrid vehicles for Assessors/Engineering/Recreational use
 - Grant expectations
- South Grafton Community House
 - Grant expectations

Thank you

Thank you to Town Administrator Evan Brassard and Finance Director Mary Lauria on behalf of the Finance Committee for the great information and presentation for the FY23 budget.

Evan Brassard stated that the ClearGov tool will be essential to continue to build the FY23 budget documents.

Close the public hearing.

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee close its public hearing.

Seconded: Andy Jefferson. All in favor. Motion carries.

Roll Call Vote: Aye Mark W. Haddad, Dan Cushner, Angelina Correia, Skip Currier, Andy Jefferson, Greg Marr, Heather McCue, Sue Robbins, Barry Smith.

Naye: None

The public hearing of the Finance Committee closed at 8:25 P.M.

Agenda item for March 05, 2022

Finance Committee member needed for the By-Law Review Committee

Adjournment

Finance Committee Chair Mark W. Haddad adjourned the public meeting of the Finance Committee at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Fiacco